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intrinsic value of many of its numbers. The little volumes of the *Sammlung Götschen*, which vary in the number of their pages from one to three hundred, are bound in flexible covers of a size convenient for carrying in the pocket, and cost but eighty pfennigs, or twenty cents apiece. The ground covered by the series is a broad one, embracing nearly the whole of German literature, editions of the early and mediæval classics, the modern masterpieces, foreign histories, grammars, dictionaries, and so forth, and so forth. The sciences are well represented in manuals of astronomy, geology, mineralogy, physical geography, botany, zoölogy, chemistry, anthropology, and so forth. But the mathematical group is perhaps the most complete of all. It has been published under the editorial direction of Prof. Hermann Schubert, of Hamburg, a former contributor to *The Monist*, who has embodied his views on arithmetic and algebra in one of the first of the volumes, and has added to it in another a collection of examples. Professor Schubert has also compiled a *Table of Four-Place Logarithms* which is unique in the respect that it is printed in two colors, and that tables of anti-logarithms are given, which dispense with interpolation. Prof. G. Mahler has written the text-book of *Plane Geometry*, the diagrams of which are printed in double colors, red and black; Professor Bürklen has compiled the book of *Mathematical Formulæ*, running from arithmetic to the calculus; Dr. Sporer has written the *Niedere Analysis*, which contains the algebraical matter necessary to the introduction to the *Calculus*, which has been treated in two volumes by Dr. Junker. The two *Analytical Geometries* have been written by Dr. M. Simon, and the *Projective Geometry* by Dr. Doeblmann. Three volumes on *Theoretical Physics* have been contributed by Dr. Jäger, of the University of Vienna; there are also manuals of perspective and drawing. The volumes, while not at all uniform as to their apparent purpose, method, or simplicity of presentation, are in the main to be commended.

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DIE ENERGETIK NACH IHRER GESCHICHTLICHEN ENTWICKELUNG. Von Dr. Georg Helm. Mit Figuren im Text. Leipzig: Verlag von Veit & Comp. 1898. Pages, 370+xii. Price, M. 8.60.

Dr. Georg Helm, professor in the Royal Technical Academy of Dresden, is well known in Germany in connexion with the recent developments of the doctrine of energy, and especially with the controversies which have arisen regarding this branch of general physical science. He is eminently fitted, therefore, for the production of a work of the present character, and every physicist and student of philosophy will find both the compilatory and original part of his work of value. It is a compendium both of the history and the methodology of the subject.

The book is divided into seven parts: the first deals with the history of the law of the conservation of energy in its earliest form, from the vague metaphysical ideas of the ancient Greeks down through the conceptions of the mathematical physicists of the eighteenth century to the enunciations of Robert Mayer and Helmholtz; the second deals with the work of Carnot, Clapeyron, and the prelim-

inary researches of Thompson ; the third part deals with the thermodynamics of Clausius, Thompson, and the rest, as does also the fourth part ; the fifth part is concerned with the rôle which the doctrine of energy now plays in chemistry, and deals largely with the work of the American inquirer, Gibbs, which was so long neglected ; in the sixth part we have a treatment of mechanics on the basis of the law of energy ; in the seventh, a discussion of the factors of energy ; and in the eighth, a characterisation of the mechanical drift of the conceptions of energy, an excursion into the nature of atomism and the general methods of science. The entire literature of the subject, both German and foreign, has been carefully explored by Dr. Helm.

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L'ANNÉE BIOLOGIQUE. *Comptes rendus annuels des travaux de biologie générale* publiés sous la direction de *Yves Delage*, Professeur à la Sorbonne. Avec la collaboration d'un Comité de Rédacteurs. Secrétaire de la rédaction, *Georges Poirault*, Docteur ès sciences. Deuxième année 1896. Paris : Schleicher Frères. 1898. Pages, 808+xxxv.

The present *Année biologique* is for the year 1896, and shows an increase of seventy-six pages over its predecessor for 1895, which was the first volume of the publication. The labor involved in the compilation of such a work as the *Année biologique* is enormous, and it is to be expected that the sacrifices of time and labor which have been made by the editor and his many associates will be appreciated by the scientific world. Without some such work as this in biology, it would be impossible for any one to keep the merest record of the myriad publications which are, or may be, of importance in some special branch. The *Année biologique* differs slightly from other year-books in that it is not merely a catalogue of the publications in biology, but a compendium and logical index of the progress of the science for each year ; and also in that the greatest stress is laid not upon facts, but upon the explanation of facts. The province of biology has been divided into twenty departments, and the work in each department made distinct from the rest. Some of the titles are as follows : The cell, fecundation, parthenogenesis, ontogenesis, teratogenesis, general morphology and physiology, heredity, variation, the origin of species, geographical distribution, mental functions, etc. The present volume is supplied with an analytical index, but we wish that some prefatory remark like that which accompanied the first volume, and also a synoptic table of contents, might have been added. Without these it is difficult to obtain a general and broad view of the contents.

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ARII E ITALICI; ATTORNO ALL' ITALIA PREISTORICA. By *G. Sergi*, Turin. Fratelli Bocca, 1898. Pages, iv, 228.

In this book, Number 4 of the *Piccola Biblioteca di Scienze Moderne*, Professor Sergi discusses the problem of the origin of European populations and civilisation, a problem which to his mind has not yet been solved. After showing the